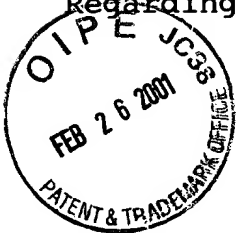


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#21
3682
#21
DAS

Regarding: R.H. Hall & T.W. Selby
Serial No. 09/172,577
Filing Date 10/13/98
For INERT GAS BLANKET FOR PROTECTION FROM OXIDATION



CPA Supplement

Attention: Group Art Unit 3682
Examiner Chong H. Kim

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAR 02 2001

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

I certify that this correspondence is deposited as postage-prepaid, first class mail with the U.S. Postal Service to the Office address indicated above on the date indicated below:

Christopher John Rudy: Christopher John Rudy Date: 2/22/2001.

Sir:

In supplement to the CPA Amendment timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.8 on February 21, 2001 in prosecution of the present application, please consider the present submission.

Submitted herewith are a Form PTO-1449 and copies of the following references, newly cited on page 5 of the CPA Amendment, and cited on the Form:

Boggs et al., U.S. patent No. 5,852,992, columns 1 and 2.
Note, column 1, lines 19-28 et seq.

Kimura, U.S. patent No. 5,794,602, columns 1 and 2.
Note, column 1, lines 10-49 et seq.

Please indicate consideration of the foregoing art by inscribing the Form with the initials of the Examiner, and sending a copy of the inscribed Form with the next Office action. A Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully,

RICHARD H. HALL ET AL.

Dated: February 22, 2001 A.D.

Per

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Encl